

# SHIFTING OF NUMBERS

[Home](#) > [Communities](#) > [Science & History](#) > [Indian / South Asian Languages](#) > [Forum](#) > Messages

first | < previous | [next >](#) | [last](#) showing **1-10** of **24**



18 Apr

[Appandai Raj](#)

## SHIFTING OF NUMBERS

In Tamil and Malayalam ( may be Kannada too)... I think... for sure...a shifting occurred in numbers 9,90,900,9000..

### **Present Tamil/Malayalam:**

9-onbathu  
90-thonnuru  
900-thollayiram  
9000-onbathu aayiram

### **In Ancient Tamil.. It must be**

9-thondu/thol  
90-onbathu (coz it rhymes with Ezhbathu=7 times of pattu , Enbathu=8 times of pattu,  
Onbathu=9 times of pattu)  
900-thonnuru (same as above.. it rhymes Ezhnuru ENNuru Thonnuru)  
9000-thollayiram

but to our surprise **Telugu** retains the ancient tamil numbers fashion..

9 thondu---thommidhi  
90 onbathu--thombai  
900 thonnuru-- thommidhi vantha  
9000 thollayiram--thommidhi vei

Why did such a shift occurred in present tamil/malayam (and may be Kannada)... ??? Why it didnt happen in telugu..???



19 Apr

[vinoth](#)

thondu pattu turns to onbathu

if u see the roman numerals , ten is X and nine is IX i.e one less than tamil

thondu pattu is somewhat closer to roman IX

pattu ten

thondu pattu ---> nine

nooru hundred

thondu nooru ----> ninety



19 Apr

## ■ Appandai Raj

Unlike Indo european languages...I think... This reducing one to ten.. is not in dravidian numbering....



19 Apr

## Ramakrishnan

In fact the structure of the word on-patu (nine) itself indicates that it was onru before pattu (one before ten), so 9.



19 Apr

## vinoth

@appandai raj

there are links between dravidian and indo european languages



19 Apr

## ■ Appandai Raj

As Velcheru Narayana Rao states in page 3 of his book Classical Telugu Poetry: "every Sanskrit word is potentially a Telugu word as well, and literary texts in Telugu may be lexically Sanskrit or Sanskritized to an enormous extent, perhaps sixty percent or more." ....

But nobody can deny that Telugu language, 'the Italian of the East' is a dravidian language..... There are links but the links should not be in the lexical structure...

Onbathu must be ninety and it cannot be nine in ancient tamil....

Because in tamil **The Prefix 'On' and 'tol' stands for Nine and not for one** ....

Also note that ....In ancient tamil poetries.... the numbering was different... For example in *silappathikaaram*... while mentioning the ages of heroine and hero, the poet mentions twelve as Eeraaru (i.e.,  $2*6=12$ ) and sixteen as Eerettu(i.e.,  $2*8=16$ )...



19 Apr

## Ramakrishnan

"தொல்" means "ancient" or "before" or "prior" in tamil depending on the context. It does not mean nine in any case.

tol+pattu --> tonpatu --> onpatu = before ten = nine.

So your reasoning is wrong, and you are trying to construct a new meaning for the word tol.

Telugu --> tommidi = tol + padi = nine



19 Apr

## Appandai Raj

**The shifting tonpatu --> onpatu cannot be possible...**

... It alters the meaning....

Take Kannada for Kannada... Ombatthu is nine but thombatthu is ninety...



20 Apr

## Ramakrishnan

In Tamil it does not alter the meaning.

Kannada word for ninety is a freak word which must have crept into common use by mistake. It does not have correspondence with telugu or tulu or tamil.

tamil retains the same order - ex tol+nooru (100) = tonnooru (90), tol + aayiram (1000) = tollaayiram (900)

aayiram is related to saavira/saasira of Kannada (ultimately from sahasra, from which the saha- became a long saa by shedding aspiration and simplification of complex sra to sira when loaned to dravidian, and shedding the initial s characteristic to tamil, it became aasiram and ultimately aayiram). Telugu seems to retain the original word veyya (for thousand)



21 Apr

## Appandai Raj

Freak word...???? 🤔

# SHIFTING OF NUMBERS

[Home](#) > [Communities](#) > [Science & History](#) > [Indian / South Asian Languages](#) > [Forum](#) > Messages

[first](#) | [< previous](#) | [next >](#) | [last](#) showing **11-20** of **24**



7 May

## [Appandai Raj](#)

Do all the kannadigas in the community agree that thombatthu(ninety) is a freak word in kannada as ramakrishan said..???



10 May

## [Nrupatunga](#)

### **Appandai Raj**

Could be. Sometimes back i had raised a point saying TaNNi as a word for water in tamil is freak word though i did not put the exact word.

Gross misgeneralisation could be possible. Many times words lose their meaning partially or completely or gross misconception can be possible.



11 May

## [Unceasing](#)

### **il TaNNi a freak word?**

In Kannada also we use Taneeru for cold water( rather normal water).

Tanni is just a shortened form of Tanneer. Paccha vellam and sudu vellam is used in Malayalam. In Tamil Pacchai is raw and also green. Vellam also means water in Tamil but is used to denote flood or overflowing of water in todays parlance.

In Tamil the word Paccha Tanni is also use to mean cold/raw/ or natural water. I wonder how Tanni can be a freak word in Tamil?

Neer is also used in Tamil in a different context. It is used more as a liquid form and does not naturally mean water. Steam is called 'Neeraavi' may be to distinguish it from the 'Pey Aavi'(ghost!)

When some one has sinusitis they refer to ' Neer' collecting in the head. One other interesting word I used to hear as a child from my grandmother was 'Salam'(Jalam) and this was used to denote only pus or any watery liquid oozing from the wounds. Never used as a water to drink.

In Agraharam Tamkrutham. Jalam will mean water.  
Neer aaharam is also used as a phrase to denote water and food.

We use Tangali for cool breeze in Kannada. Tamils use Tendral and Vaadai. Now both these words are freak if we try to find the root without the context and the bigger understanding of Geography.

Tendral means the southerly winds which is cool and hence the name.  
Vaadai means the Northern winds which is cold and comes in winter.

In Tamil Tendral signifies something like Kannada's Tangali, it could have been Tengali, as Tengu also means cocunut or the southern tree. But the word Tengu, Tampu, Tangali all signify something cool and refreshing.

I know this is a deviation from the main theme in this thread. In Kannada also the word thundu has the same meaning as in Tamil. As someone said in this forum the standardisation of languages takes place from the dialect which is more dominant or ruling. Influence of regional variation might have caused these changes.

If a word sounds freak, then there is more to it than it actually seems. Fieldword is the answer!



14 May (5 days ago)

[delete](#)

### ● [రవ వరల్](#)

<<"தொல்" means "ancient" or "before" or "prior" in tamil depending on the context. It does not mean nine in any case. tol+pattu --> tonpatu --> onpatu = before ten = nine.>>

As far as 9 in Tamil is concerned, there is another word தொண்டு tonṭu , n. < தொள் . Nine; ஒன்பது. தொண்டுபடது திவவின (மலைபடது. 21). However there are changes in the world counting system based upon 1) Counting by Pairs 2) Neo - 2 – counting, 3) 4 count and 12 count 5) The 5 - 10 and 5 - 20 systems (20 count in Western Europe), 6) The 10 - 60 system.

Due to that effect, usage of தொண்டு for the numerical value 9 is renounced. For 9, the word onbathu was invented giving the meaning one reduced from 10.

However, Telugu word Tommidhi is wrongly derived from the Tamil words Thondu (9)+Pathu (10)-> Thonbathu->Thombadhi->Thommidhi. Again this is reflected as Enimidhi for 8 (as in Tamil En means 8+ Pathu means 10). En+Pathu->(Enpathu)->Enimidhi (wrong derivation in Telugu. For the value 80, it is enabadhi or enabhai).

In Dravidian languages esp Tamil, the Primary counting is based upon 10 System. Pathu (1\*10), irupathu (2\*10), Muppathu (3\*10), Narpathu (4\*10), Aimpathu (5\*10), Arupathu, (6\*10), Ezhupathu(7\*10), Enbathu (8\*10). but for 90, it is தொள் + நூறு(100)- (a Value before 100).



14 May (5 days ago)

[delete](#)

### ● [రవ వరల్](#)

**With regard to Counting of 10 to 90, In Sanskrit, Latin, Irish, Russian, Greek, Avestan languages, it is based upon 100 (centa, Konta and sat Format).**

**Twenty: Armenian k'san, Albanian njëzet/njizet, Gaulish vocontio, Greek eikosi,**

**Avestan visaiti, Irish fiche/fiche, Kashmiri vuh, Latin vīgintī, Persian /bēst, Kamviri vici, Russian dvjensat', Sanskrit viṅśati, Tocharian wiki/ikām, Welsh ugain. These words are derived as Dvi(2)+Satam(100)->Dvisatam->Dvimsati->Vimsati)**

**Thirty: Latin trīgintā, Greek triákonta, Irish /tríocha, Russian trinadsat', Sanskrit triṅśat (Thri (3)+Satam (100)->Trisati)**

**Forty: Latin quadrāgintā, Greek tessarákonta, Russian četyrnadsat', Sanskrit catvāriṅśat (Catur (4)+Satam (100)-> catvāriṅśat)**

**Fifty: Latin quinquāgintā, Greek pentêkonta, Irish /caoga, Russian pjatnadsat', Sanskrit pañcāśat (Pamcha (5)+Satam (100)-> pañcāśat)**

**Sixty: Latin: sexāgintā, Greek exêkonta, Irish /seasca, Russian šestnadsat', Sanskrit ṣaṣṭih (Sas (6)+Satam (100)->ṣaṣṭih)**

**Seventy: Latin septuāgintā, Greek heptákonta, Irish /seachtó, Russian semnadsat', Sanskrit saptatih (Sapta (7)+Satam (100)->saptatih)**

**Eighty: Latin octāgintā, Greek ogdôkonta, Irish /ochtó, Russian (v)osemnadsat', Sanskrit aśīti (Ashta (8)+Satam (100)->aśīti)**

**Ninety: Latin nonāgintā, Greek ennenêkonta, Irish /nócha, Russian devjatnadsat', Sanskrit navatih (Nava (9)+Satam (100)->navatih )**



14 May (5 days ago)

[delete](#)

## ● రెవ వరల్డ్

Order of counting System

except from 11 to 19, the counting System in English is similar to Tamil, Telugu, and other languages.

ty (10)

suffix representing "ten" in cardinal numbers (sixty, seventy, etc.), from O.E. -tig, from a Gmc. root (cf. Du. -tig, O.Fris. -tich, O.N. -tigr, O.H.G. -zig, -zug, Ger. -zig) that existed as a distinct word in Gothic tigjus, O.N. tigr "tens, decades." English, like many other Germanic languages, retains traces of a base-12 number system. The most obvious instance is eleven and twelve which ought to be the first two numbers of the "teens" series. Their Old English forms, enleofan and twel(eo)f(an), are more transparent: "leave one" and "leave two." Old English also had hund endleofantig for "110" and hund twelftig for "120." One hundred was hund teantig. The -tig formation ran through 12 cycles, and could have bequeathed us numbers \*eleventy ("110") and \*twelfty ("120") had it endured, but already during the O.E. period it was being obscured. O.N. used hundrað for "120" and þusend for "1,200." Tvaughundrað was "240" and þriughundrað was "360." Older Germanic legal texts distinguished a "common hundred" (100) from a "great hundred" (120). This duodecimal system, according to one authority, is "perhaps due to contact with Babylonia."

இருபத்து [20]+ஒன்று[1] ->இருபத்தொன்று

Twenty [20] +one[1]->Twenty one

ఇరవై[20]+ఒకటి[1]-> ఇరవైకొకటి

But in Sanskrit, the count is in disorder.

एकविंशति [21]

एक [1]+ विंशति [20] {Dvi(2)+Satam(100)->Dvisatam->Dvimsati->Vimsati 20}-> एकविंशति [21], as in the case of English Thirteen [3(Three)+10 (Ten/Teen)=13].



14 May (5 days ago)

[delete](#)

## ● రెవెన్యూ

Almost all Indo European languages (including Devabhasha) lost the t in Twenty (20).  
Twenty:Armenian k'san, Albanian njîzet/njizet, Gaulish vocontio, Greek eikosi, Avestan visaiti, Irish fiche/fiche, Kashmiri vuh, Latin vīgintī, Persian /bēst, Kamviri vici, , Sanskrit viñśati, Tocharian wiki/ikām, Welsh ugain except Germnic Group as evidenced in the English language and Russian (dvjensat').

Twenty:O.E. twentig "group of twenty," from twegen "two" (see two) + -tig "group of ten" (see -ty (1)). Cognate with O.Fris. twintich, Du. twintig, O.H.G. zweinzug, Ger. zwanzig. Goth. twai tijus is even more transparent: lit. "two tens as இருபது (இரண்டுகூட்பது)

(<http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?search=twenty&searchmode=none>)



15 May (4 days ago)

## Ramakrishnan

The zati in viMzati does not refer to 100, it refers to ten, being a short form of dazati (which means ten).



16 May (3 days ago)

[delete](#)

## ● రెవెన్యూ

//ten Latin decem, Greek deka, Sanskrit daśa//

thirty Latin trīgintā, Greek triákonta, Sanskrit triñśat  
forty Latin quadrāgintā, Greek tessarákonta, Sanskrit catvāriñśat  
fifty Latin quinquāgintā, Greek pentēkonta, Sanskrit pañcāśat  
sixty Latin sexāgintā, Greek exēkonta, Sanskrit ṣaṣṭih  
seventy Latin septuāgintā, Greek heptákonta, Sanskrit sapṭatih  
eighty Latin octāgintā, Greek ogdōkonta, Sanskrit aṣṭih  
ninety Latin nonāgintā, Greek ennenēkonta, Sanskrit navatih

//hundred Latin centum,Greek hekaton, Sanskrit śata//

Latin: Inti, Ginta from Centa (Kenta), Greek: ákonta/ékonta from hekaton, (centam languages) and Sanksrit: śat from śata. (satam Language).

The dazati (10) is not attested in these languages. unlike Tamil and English languages (ஒரு, இரு, மூன்று, நான்கு, ஐ, அறு, எழு, எண், தொள், two, third, for, fif), Sanksrit could not further create abbreviation forms for these numerals (ஒரு, இரு, மூன்று, நான்கு, ஐ, அறு, எழு, எண், தொள், two, third, for, fif). Therefore in Tamil and English languages, the numeric format is 20+1, 30+1 etc. But in Sanskrit, it is 1+20, 2+20.... or 1+30, 2+30.... etc

In Sanskrit, the counting system format should be trimsata eka (30+1), etc. but the case is different in Skt i.e. ékatrimshat (1+30), dvaatrimshat (2+30)ḥ tráyastrimshat(3+30)ḥ

cātustrimshat(4+30)ṛ páñcatrimshat (5+30), unlike English counting system [Thirty one (30+1), Thirty Two(30+2), Thirty three (30+3)] and/or Tamil counting System [முப்பத்தொன்று (30+1), முப்பத்திரண்டு(30+2), முப்பத்தி மூன்று(30+3)].



16 May (3 days ago)

[delete](#)

## ● ரெ ஷர்டீ

Numerals in Latin representing cardinal values that are eight more (two less) than a multiple of ten are constructed literally as:

duo (“two”) + dē (“from”) + multiple of ten

Thus, the numeral for 38 is normally written as duodēquadrāgintā (“two from forty”), rather than as the expected trīgintā octō (“thirty-eight”) or octō et trīgintā (“eight and thirty”). compare tamil and Telugu words Eight and nine (enimindhi, Thommidhi and onbadhu).

The latter two additive forms are possible, but are not found in Classical Latin as frequently as the subtractive form.

Numerals representing cardinal values that are nine more (one less) than a multiple of ten are constructed literally as:

ūnūs (“one”) + dē (“from”) + multiple of ten

Thus, the numeral for 39 is normally written as ūndēquadrāgintā (“one from forty”), rather than as the expected trīgintā novem (“thirty-nine”) or novem et trīgintā (“nine and thirty”). The latter two additive forms are possible, but are not found in Classical Latin as frequently as the subtractive form.

Tens +8 ( or –2 ) Tens +9 ( or –1 )  
18 XVIII duodēvīgintī 19 XIX ūndēvīgintī  
28 XXVIII duodētrīgintā 29 XXIX ūndētrīgintā  
38 XXXVIII duodēquadrāgintā 39 XXXIX ūndēquadrāgintā  
48 XLVIII duodēquīnquāgintā 49 XLIX ūndēquīnquāgintā  
58 LVIII duodēsexāgintā 59 LIX ūndēsexāgintā  
68 LXVIII duodēseptuāgintā 69 LXIX ūndēseptuāgintā  
78 LXXVIII duodēoctōgintā 79 LXXIX ūndēoctōgintā  
88 LXXXVIII duodēnōnāgintā 89 LXXXIX ūndēnōnāgintā  
98 XCVIII nōnāgintā octō 99 XCIX ūndēcentum  
[first](#) | [< previous](#) | [next >](#) | [last](#)



16 May (3 days ago)

## Ramakrishnan

The dazati (10) is not attested in these languages.

From A.A.Macdonnell's dictionary

dasati [ dasa-ti ] f. decade



vīmśati [ vi-m-sa-tí ] f. [two-decade: (d)vi-m (da)sa-tí] twenty (w. a pl. in the same case, governing a g. pl., or &degree;--): (i)-ka, a. twenty years old; consisting of twenty (syllables or panas: fine); n. twenty; -tama, a. twen tieth (w. bhâga, m. twentieth part); -bhâga, m. twentieth part; -ma, a. twentieth; m. twentieth part; -varsha-desîya, a. about twenty years old; -vârshika, a. (î) lasting twenty years; taking place after twenty years; -&half;îsa, -&half;îsin, m. chief of twenty villages.

By the way decade means ten



17:28 (16 hours ago)

[delete](#)

### ● రెవ వరలో

<<By the way decade means ten >>

Though the word decade or dasati means ten, Nowhere the words Latin decem, Greek deka, Sanskrit daśa used in the following counting.

thirty Latin trīgintā, Greek triákonta, Sanskrit triṅśat  
forty Latin quadrāgintā, Greek tessarákonta, Sanskrit catvāriṅśat  
fifty Latin quinquāgintā, Greek pentêkonta, Sanskrit pañcāśat

In the following cases, Skt is also not using the sata format (unclaimed dasati format) and but using ṭi, and ti format, thereby showing prakrit (/derivation) irregular character.

sixty Latin sexāgintā, Greek exêkonta, Sanskrit ṣaṣṭih  
seventy Latin septuāgintā, Greek heptákonta, Sanskrit sapṭatih  
eighty Latin octāgintā, Greek ogdôkonta, Sanskrit aṣṭih  
ninety Latin nonāgintā, Greek ennenêkonta, Sanskrit navatih.

Latin: Ginta is derived from Centa 100 (Kenta), Greek: ákonta/êkonta is derived from hekaton 100, (centam languages) and Sanksrit: śat/śati/ti/ṭi is derived from śata 100. (satam Language).



17:38 (15 hours ago)

[delete](#)

### ● రెవ వరలో

<<In fact the structure of the word on-patu (nine) itself indicates that it was onru before pattu (one before ten), so 9.>>

<<if u see the roman numerals , ten is X and nine is IX i.e one less than tamil>>

Not only in Tamil, but also in Latin and Skt, the counting system is changed.

19 návadashan or ekonavimshatí or uunavimshatí or ekaannavimshatí The words "ekona=eka + uuna"; "uuna" and "ekaanna=ekaan + na" mean "minus one". "Vimshatí" means "twenty". So, the idea is "twenty minus one=19".

"

29 návavimshati or ekonatrimshat or uunatrimshat or ekaannatrimshat The words "ekona=eka + uuna"; "uuna" and "ekaanna=ekaan + na" mean "minus one". "Trimshát" means "thirty". So, the idea is "thirty minus one=29".

39 návatrimshat or ekonacatvaarimshát or uunacatvaarimshát or ekaannacatvaarimshát

49 návacatvaarimshat or ekonapañcaashát or uunapañcaashát or ekaannapañcaashát

59 návapañcaashat or ekonasasti or uunasasti or ekaannasasti

69 návasasti or ekonasaptatí or uunasaptatí or ekaannasaptatí

79 návasaptati or ekonaashiití or uunaashiití or ekaannaashiití The words "ekona=eka + uuna"; "uuna" and "ekaanna=ekaan + na" mean "minus one". "Ashiití" means "eighty". So, the idea is "eighty minus one=79".

89 Ekaennvit The words "ekona=eka + uuna"; "uuna" and "ekaanna=ekaan + na" mean "minus one". "Navatí" means "ninety". So, the idea is "ninety minus one=89".

99 návanaavati or ekonashatá or uunashatá or ekaannashatá The words "ekona=eka + uuna"; "uuna" and "ekaanna=ekaan + na" mean "minus one". "Shatá" means "one hundred". So, the idea is "one hundred minus one=99".